

(c) means for identifying medical data for each of said patients with conditions required for accessing [of] said medical data, and

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(d) data processing means responsive to a request for patient medical data for comparing said request with said conditions required for access [of] to said data and, when said request fails to comply with said conditions, for denying access to said data.

B2 5. (Twice Amended) The system of Claim 4 further including means for authenticating [the] identity of said patients.

21. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein said means for identifying medical data fulfilling [the] criteria specified in a request include [a] means for producing an indicia of the degree to which patient data [listed in such data index] match [the] said criteria specified in [such] said request.

B3 22. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 1 including means for a [party] patient to grant permission [to] for the release of his/her medical data.

23, (Once Amended) The system of Claim 22 wherein said at least one data base includes [a] billing means [for] having access to said medical data.

24, (Once Amended) The system of Claim 22 wherein said means for a patient to grant permission includes data symbolic of the identity of [such party] said patient and data symbolic of the

preferred means for contacting [such party] said patient to request access to and release of said patient's medical data.

25. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 23 wherein said means for a [party] patient to grant permission includes data symbolic of rules to be followed in the event time elapses before such permission is granted in the case of predetermined types of requests for [such] said medical data.

26. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 1 further including means for identifying the party requesting access to [such] said medical data.

27. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 26 further including means for authenticating the identity of each party [with such] having right of approval [to the] for release of [such] said medical data.

28. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 27 further including means for producing an indicia that all required approvals for the release of [such] said medical data have been secured.

29. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 28 further including means for producing an indicia of the required approvals for the release of [such] said medical data that have not been secured[, ] or that have been specifically declined.

30. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 20 further including data index means and on-line memory cache means for physically disconnecting said at least one data base from said data index

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means, [the transmission means to] online memory cache means and all other outside parties except during [the] batch process of uploading pre-designated and fully-approved requests for medical data.

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33. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 1 further including online memory cache means and means for delivering medical data to a requesting party including means for transmitting requested medical data held in digital form to [an] said online memory cache means.

34. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 33 wherein said online memory cache means includes a firewall limiting access to said memory cache means exclusively to authorized users.

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35. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 33 further including means for producing an indicia that [the] said requested medical data have been received in [an] said online memory cache means and are being held there for download by [the] said requesting party.

36. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 34 further including means for [the] said requesting party to enter through [the] said firewall and download said medical data from said memory cache means.

37. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 1 including means for delivering medical data to [the] a requesting party.

38. (Once Amended) the system of Claim 37 further including

B4 means for informing [the] said requesting party when medical data is in a non-digital form and the mode of [such] available delivery.

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41. (Once Amended) The system of Claim 1 further including public portions, and comprising means for allowing parties to advertise in [the] said public portions of said system

42. (Once Amended) A method of controlling access to medical data in a medical data base comprising:

(a) maintaining at least one data base including medical data individually relating to each of a plurality of patients,

B5 (b) identifying medical data for each of said patients with indicia indicative of conditions required for access [of] to said medical data,

(c) selectively introducing [internet and/or intranet] requests for access to said data through an interconnected computer input terminal, [and]

(d) comparing said requests with said conditions; and, when said requests fail[s] to comply with said conditions, automatically denying access to said data.

43. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further [includes the] including a step of authenticating [the identity] identities of [the requesting party] parties making said requests.

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B6 46. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 45 further including [the] a step of authenticating [the identity] identities of [the

patient] said patients.

47. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 [wherein said] further including steps of requesting said medical data [includes the step] and indicating what part of [the records] said data is desired by [the] said requesting party.

34 48. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 [wherein said] further including steps of requesting access to said medical records [includes the step of] and indicating [the] a reason said records are being requested.

49. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 including [the] a step of [identifying] ensuring that records fulfilling [such] said requests include data symbolic of [the] patient [identity] identities.

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37 57. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 wherein said step of [requesting and accessing] selectively introducing requests for access to said medical data includes [the] a step of indicating a "standing order" that will automatically initiate an attempt to retrieve certain predetermined types of medical data under specific pre-specified circumstances.

58. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 wherein said conditions required for accessing said medical data include[s the] a step of indicating [the] names of each [of the parties] party who's permission must be obtained prior to [the] release of [such] said medical data.

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38 62. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further including providing a data index, and wherein [said step for] identifying medical data fulfilling [the] criteria specified in a request includes [the] a step of producing an indicia of the degree to which data listed in [such] said data index match [the] said criteria specified in [such] said request.

63. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 including [the] a step of providing for a [party] patient to grant [its] permission to [the] release of such medical data.

65. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 63 wherein said step of providing for a [party] patient to grant permission includes data symbolic of the identity of [such party] said patient and data symbolic of [the] a preferred means for contacting [such party] said patient to request access to and to [the] release of said patient's medical data.

39 66. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 64 wherein said step of providing for a [party] patient to grant permission includes providing data symbolic of rules to be followed in the event time elapses before [such] said permission is granted in the case of pre-determined types of requests for [such] said medical data.

67. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further including [the] a step of identifying [the] a party requesting access to [such] said medical data.

68. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 67 further including

[the] a step of authenticating [the] identity of each party with [such] a right of approval to [the] release of [such] said medical data.

69. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 68 further including [the] a step of producing an indicia that all required approvals for [the] release of [such] said medical data have been secured.

70. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 69 further including [the] a step of producing an indicia of [the required] approvals required for [the] release of [such] said medical data that have not been secured, or that have been specifically declined.

71. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 61 further including [the] steps of providing a data index and online memory cache, and physically disconnecting said at least one data base from said data index [means], [the transmission means to] said online memory cache [means] and all other outside parties except during [the] batch process of uploading pre-designated and fully-approved requests for medical data.

72. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 71 further including [the] a step of providing an interface engine [making it possible] for [a] search agent means to index said at least one data base of medical data.

73. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further including [the] a step of billing [the] a requesting party for [the] a charge related to delivery of [the] medical data.

74. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further including [the] steps of providing an online memory cache and delivering medical data to [the] a requesting party [includes the step of] and transmitting records [held] in digital form to [an] said online memory cache.

75. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 72 [wherein said online memory cache includes] further including providing a firewall limiting access to said memory cache exclusively to authorized users.

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76. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 72 further including [the] a step of producing an indicia that [the] requested medical data have been received in [an] said online memory cache and are being held there for download by [the] a requesting party.

77. (Once Amended) The method of Claim [76] 75 further including [the] a step of permitting a properly credentialed requesting party to enter through [the] said firewall and download said medical data from [the] said memory cache.

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80. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further including [the] a step of encrypting [all] selected communications [between the parties] within said system.

81. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 42 further including [the] a step of creating a security log and retaining an audit trail with regard to all of the communications between [the] parties using said system.

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Claim 8, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 9, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 10, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 11, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 12, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 13, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 14, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 15, line 2, Change "such" to --said--.  
Claim 17, line 4, delete "the".  
Claim 32, line 2, Change "the" to --a--.  
Claim 40, line 3, Change "the" to --said--.  
Claim 44, line 1, Change "preventing" to --rejecting--.  
Claim 45, line 2, Delete "the";  
Change "request" to --requests--.  
Claim 50, line 2, Change "such" to --said--;  
Change "request" to --requests--.  
Claim 51, line 2, Change "such" to --said--;  
Change "request" to --requests--.  
Claim 52, line 2, Change "such" to --said--;  
Change "request" to --requests--.  
Claim 53, line 2, Change "such" to --said--;  
Change "request" to --requests--.  
Claim 54, line 2, Change "such" to --said--;  
Change "request" to --requests--.